



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Messinger Named President of Statewide Professional Organization

Park Division Head Selected For Leadership Post

Ms. Cindy Messinger, Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority Resource Management Division has been elected to serve as President of the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society (VRPS) for 2007. The 2007 VRPS Board of Directors announced the unanimous decision on Tuesday, August 22, 2006. Her term will begin on January 1, 2007.

The Virginia Recreation and Park Society is a private, non-profit professional organization, founded in 1953 with approximately 1,350 members throughout the state. Its purpose is to unite all professionals, students, and interested persons engaged in the field of recreation, parks and other leisure services in Virginia, into one body by providing professional development, networking opportunities, membership recognition, scholarships and discounts. Members work together to promote and improve the profession in all its diversity. VRPS is affiliated with the National Recreation and Park Association a national professional organization.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree from Radford University (Radford, VA), in Recreation Administration, Messinger has made her career with the Park Authority beginning in 1979 as an intern. Over the past 26 years, she has served in a variety of roles including programmer, RECenter manager, Recreation Center Section Supervisor and Business Office Manager. In 1999, she became a member of the agency's leadership team with her appointment as Park Services Division Director overseeing the management and operation of the Agency's revenue facilities including lakefront parks, RECenters, golf courses, as well as the support areas of marketing and production related services.

In July, 2004 Messinger was named to lead the Resource Management Division (RMD), the Park Authority's division charged with the stewardship, education and interpretation of Fairfax County's natural and cultural resources, including the management and operations of historic and nature sites and implementation of the resource management plans. Messinger has been active in VRPS at various levels of the organization since college, has served on the Board of Directors since 2005 and is currently the treasurer of the Society. She is excited about the appointment and looking forward to the opportunities ahead. For more information about VRPS log on to www.vrps.com.

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